

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 1-6, 8, 9 and 12-18 are in the case.

Claims 1-3, 12 and 13 stand withdrawn from consideration as not reading on the elected invention.

It is requested that upon allowance of the elected claims, non-elected Claims 12 and 13 be rejoined therewith and also allowed, consistent with M.P.E.P. § 821.04.

The elected claims are Claims 4-6, 8, 9 and 14-18.

Claims 4, 8 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(e) or 103(a) over Tokai et al. optionally evidenced by Briney et al.

Claims 4-6, 8, 9, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) or 103(a) as being unpatentable over the newly cited Tanamura et al. reference.

These rejections are traversed. Specifically, the invention relates to a barrier rib for an EL display element which is formed from a radiation sensitive resin composition comprising (A) an alkali soluble resin selected from the group consisting of a novolak resin, a homopolymer of a radical polymerizable monomer having a phenolic hydroxyl group or carboxyl group, a copolymer of the radical polymerizable monomer and another radical polymerizable monomer, and a copolymer of at least one selected from the group consisting of an unsaturated carboxyl acid and unsaturated carboxylic anhydride, and epoxy group-containing unsaturated compound and another olefinic unsaturated compound other than these unsaturated compounds ethylenically unsaturated bond, and (C) a radiation sensitive polymerization initiator, on a substrate, said barrier rib having a trapezoidal cross sectional form with a longer top side than the bottom side on the substrate and an angle formed by a straight line connecting the upper pattern edge and the lower pattern edge and the top side of 15 to 75°.

Tokai et al. clearly neither teaches, nor makes obvious Applicants' discovery. At least two material and significant aspects of the claimed invention distinguishes the claims over this reference.

Thus, the inverse trapezoidal cross-sectional form of the barrier rib is now defined as being with regard to the substrate. In Tokai et al., on the other hand, Figure 13, referred to by the Examiner, does not show such claimed inversely tapered form. Although the barrier rib in Tokai et al. has a tapered form, it has a trapezoidal cross-sectional form with a shorter top side than bottom side, relative to the substrate.

Further, an alkali soluble resin as now specifically defined in the claims is not so disclosed by Tokai et al. The photosensitive materials in Tokai et al. are neither disclosed to be alkali soluble resins, nor, in fact, are they of the class as now specifically defined. Due to the particular nature of the barrier rib material, not so disclosed by Tokai et al., as well as the claimed inverse trapezoidal form, so also specifically defined by the claims, unobviously superior barrier ribs for EL display elements are obtained having excellent heat resistance and adhesion, as so disclosed and shown.

Both of these above-discussed claimed features are neither disclosed by, nor made obvious by Tokai et al., even when considered in light of the teaching of Briney et al. Briney et al., similarly, neither teaches, nor makes obvious, an alkali soluble resin (A) as claimed, the reference only teaching materials similar to those taught by Tokai et al.

With regard to the newly cited Tanimura et al. reference, it equally fails to teach within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102, nor make obvious, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 103, Applicants' discovery.

Thus, while inversely trapezoidal structures are disclosed by Tanimura et al., such structures are not prepared from an alkali soluble resin (A) as specifically defined by the claims. Due to the particular nature of the claimed barrier material, on the other hand,

unobviously superior results are obtained with regard to having excellent heat resistance and adhesion, as so shown in the examples of the case. Such clearly rebuts any possible *prima facie* case of obviousness conceivably made out by the reference.

Further, with regard to the additional limitations of Claims 8 and 16-18, the following is pointed out. By controlling the amount of the volatile component, the entry of impurities into the EL layer can be prevented, thereby making it possible to prevent such problems as the occurrence of a lighting failure of the EL display element and a reduction in the brightness of emitted light. Such also is not disclosed by the reference, nor necessarily inherent.

Also, when the barrier rib of the present invention contains a colorant, it has light screening properties and preferably an OD value of 0.1 or more when it has a film thickness of 1  $\mu\text{m}$ . When the OD value is smaller than 0.1, the light emitted from EL easily transmits the barrier rib and it is difficult to prevent a reduction in light emission contrast. Thus, the additional limitation as called for by Claim 6 providing for unobviously superior results additionally is not disclosed by the art.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 102 is requested.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 8 under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112, it has been amended in a manner believed to obviate this rejection. It is the amount of volatile components measured when heating the barrier rib at the defined temperature that is defined by the claim, it is not a step in the making of the barrier rib.

Should any further amendments to the claims be considered necessary by the Examiner, she is requested to contact the undersigned by telephone so that mutually agreeable language may be arrived at.

Application No. 09/840,130  
Reply to Office Action of June 5, 2003

Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph thus  
is requested.

It is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and which is  
solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Norman F. Oblon  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 24,618

Samuel H. Blech  
Registration No. 32,082